

2016 European Parliamentary Week

European Semester Conference

Inter-parliamentary committee meetings - Brussels

Purpose

The European Parliament is organising an inter-parliamentary meeting on the European Semester Cycles 2015/2016 to allow parliamentarians from across the EU to discuss the proposed changes to the European semester process and exchange best practices in implementing the Semester cycles.

In addition, the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs, the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs and the Committee on Budgets are holding inter-parliamentary committee meetings on topics related to taxation, banking union, social and employment standards and the multiannual budget framework of the EU. The Dutch Parliament and the European Parliament are also jointly hosting and presiding an inter-parliamentary conference on stability, economic coordination and governance in the European Union.

Inside

This leaflet includes extracts from relevant supporting analyses provided by Parliament's Economic Governance Support Unit and Policy Departments for the Committees on Economic and Monetary Affairs, Employment and Social Affairs, Internal Market and Consumer Protection, Women's Rights and Gender Equality, Budgets, and International Trade. Clicking on the titles or scan the QR codes.



Publications

[Economic policy coordination in the euro area under the European Semester](#) - January 2016

External experts prepared five analyses focusing on the Country Specific Recommendations (CSR) addressed to EU Member States, and on the Recommendations to the Euro Area, as adopted by the Council in July 2015. So far, the implementation of these recommendations has been quite poor. The experts suggest how to improve the implementation of the CSRs and make the Semester more efficient, transparent and inclusive while supporting the smooth functioning of the Economic and Monetary Union.



[Mainstreaming employment and social indicators into macroeconomic surveillance](#) - January 2016

This study assesses how employment and social issues are addressed in the European Semester governance mechanisms and the contribution of the employment and social indicators applied in the macro surveillance exercises since 2013, as well as the role and perceptions of the main stakeholders in this respect. The findings show a European Semester currently undergoing important developments under the pressure of changing economic and social conditions, which underline the need for revising the EU governance and coordination system.



[Assessment of the Horizon 2020 programme - January 2016](#)



This study assesses the first two years of the Horizon 2020 programme, taking into account the initial frontloading for this programme, the evolution and the new priorities after the 2013 agreement on the Multiannual Financial Framework 2014-2020. It includes a short description of the programme and its progress, discusses its budgetary implementation and performance to date. The implications of cuts related to the European Fund for Strategic Investments is looked at. The study also provides conclusions through an overall appraisal of the programme.



[One year to go: the debate over China's market economy status heats up - December 2015](#)



Market economy status (MES) – a term used in antidumping investigations – has come to the top of the international agenda, bringing heated discussions on whether or not China will soon be granted this status. China argues that its WTO accession documents foresee an automatic acquisition of MES in December 2016. Yet for other WTO members, the text in question is subject to interpretation. Legally, the EU must ensure that its rules are compatible with the WTO's. But the economic aspects are complex and potentially substantial for significant sectors of the EU's economy.



[Estimating the bridge financing needs of the Single Resolution Fund - November 2015](#)



The authors of this paper estimate the cost of bank resolutions on the basis of resolutions and recapitalisations which actually occurred between 2007 and 2014. They assess whether the Single Resolution Fund would need additional bridge financing in the initial period when the fund is built-up. The conclusion is that a bridge facility of about EUR 60 billion would be sufficient in the transition period, but that the Single Resolution Fund may require additional credit lines in order to use the asset separation tool or to provide temporary liquidity assistance.



[The Trade in Services Agreement: an end to negotiations in sight? - October 2015](#)



Launched at the beginning of 2013, negotiations on the plurilateral Trade in Services Agreement (TISA) have neared an important juncture. The TISA agreement is designed to boost liberalisation of the global services sector, moving beyond the current, outdated GATS provisions and unlocking huge economic potential. The EU undoubtedly has important stakes in these negotiations as its economy is highly – and increasingly – dependent on the service sector. However, there remain several obstacles to the successful completion of the agreement and its effective WTO integration.



[The Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership: the sluggish state of negotiations - October 2015](#)



Ten rounds of negotiations on the EU-US Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership over the past two years have produced scant results. The political objectives of the EU mandate and those expressed by the European Parliament, and the US Congress's objectives have been clear: all recommend eliminating tariffs and dismantling non-tariff barriers to further liberalise transatlantic markets and promote higher rates of growth and job creation. In October 2015, the negotiating parties finally presented upgraded proposals on how to eliminate tariffs.



[Single Supervisory Mechanism: how have the banks performed? - October 2015](#)



This briefing assesses the evolution of banks' capital positions, asset quality, liquidity profiles, profitability, and sovereign exposures in the Banking Union since December 2013. It underlines the different features of small, medium, and large banks, as well as systemic banks (GSIBs). A specific focus on those banks which had failed the Comprehensive Assessment published by the European Central Bank in October 2014 provides useful information as to the progress observed as well as the challenges that those banks are still facing.



[Smart Single Market regulation](#) - September 2015



Many of the elements of a performance-based policy cycle are already in place in Single Market regulation. Nevertheless there is potential for further improvement. This study proposes a consolidated governance system that would serve as a tool for the smart Single Market regulation towards 2020 and beyond. It outlines areas for improvement in Single Market regulation through the adoption of performance-based policy concepts and reviews the scope for making better use of the Single Market governance tools to improve the effectiveness of regulation.



[Trade in commodities, obstacles to trade and illegal trade](#) - September 2015



China remains the EU's main supplier of critical raw materials. Despite recent WTO rulings, China is still implementing a wide range of trade distorting measures in the form of export licensing or through the introduction of a resource tax. While the use of the WTO provides one of the most straightforward mediums to offset trade distortions, more effective measures include the addition of explicit clauses on critical raw materials in bilateral trade agreements and a strong regulatory framework in the Member States prohibiting imports of conflict or illegal raw materials.



[Have European banks actually changed since the start of the crisis?](#) - June 2015



This paper documents trends in key bank variables over the 2003-2013 period for the set of banks that the ECB directly supervises as of January 30, 2015. This time period enables to see how the crisis has affected the banks, and also how they have changed since the crisis. A range of variables considered provide a picture of the extent to which banks have been moving in the direction of better performance and greater stability. The identified trends provide a mixed picture of whether banks have been moving in the right direction since the start of the crisis.



[The EU budget for gender equality](#) - May 2015



This study subjects the EU budget to a gender budgeting analysis revealing the impact of revenue and spending decisions on gender equality. It covers the operational expenditure of six selected policy areas. The authors adopt the capability approach, based on a broad definition of human well-being, following a bottom-up logic. The conclusions include the fact that many titles of the EU budget do not follow the EU's high level of commitment towards gender equality, and that specific gender indicators are not systematically used in the evaluation of actions.



[Debt sustainability and economic convergence of euro-area Member States](#) - February 2015



This paper analyses the Commission's assessment of the budgetary position of the euro area and of the euro area fiscal policy stance, which would have allowed "to strike an appropriate balance between fiscal sustainability requirements, underscored by high and increasing government debt ratios, and cyclical stabilisation concerns, highlighted by significant and persistent negative output gaps". Appropriate policy measures that would help bring debt dynamics on a sustainable path and foster economic convergence are also suggested.



[Wage and income inequality in the European Union](#) - January 2015



This report summarises the results of the project "Wage Dispersion in the European Union". It has three objectives: first, to describe the recent evolution of wage dispersion across EU Member States using different definitions of labour earnings and inequality measures; second, to analyse the relationship between wage dispersion and labour market institutions related to collective bargaining and minimum wages taking into account recent policy reforms; and, last, to evaluate the impact of changes in wage inequality on overall income distribution in the EU.



[Financing public expenditure: some key figures at EU and national levels](#) - January 2015



This briefing looks at the system of financing EU public expenditure. The structure of Member States' revenue is stable over time, their sources of revenue are diversified and the size of their budget is generally increasing. Conversely, the financing structure of the EU has changed over time and the sources of revenue are not diversified. Its budget size is levelling off. Moreover, very small in size compared to national budgets, the EU budget is an investment budget with a strong leverage effect.



[EU mapping - a systematic overview on economic and financial legislation](#) - May 2014



This paper provides a graphic overview of core legislation in the area of economic and financial services. It shows legislation in force, proposals and other relevant provisions on, amongst others: banking, securities markets and investment firms, market infrastructure, insurance and occupational pensions, payment services, consumer protection in financial services, the European System of Financial Supervision, European Monetary Union, euro bills and coins and statistics, competition, taxation, commerce and company law, accounting and auditing.



[Data for the evaluation of the European Semester process from a gender perspective](#) - March 2012



This study sets out 83 indicators for the inclusion of the gender perspective in the evaluation of the Europe 2020 Strategy during the European Semester process. They encompass the five EU 2020 headline targets and will introduce a gender perspective into the indicators dashboard of the European Semester. The proposal for a WIKI EU Semester & Gender Equality Web Platform is put forward as an option enhancing contributions and the follow-up of the European Semester process from a gender equality perspective by civil society organisations.



[Analysis of five national reform programmes 2012: the EU's gender equality objectives](#) - December 2012



The link between macroeconomics and gender balance should not be overlooked. This study evaluates the Member States' progress towards the EU's gender equality objectives in the context of the EU 2020 Strategy and of the European Semester. As gender-specific indicators are not applied in the current policy coordination process, the study offers constructive guidance for policy makers on how to address gender equality aspects deemed essential to achieve the EU 2020 targets.



Fact Sheets on the EU

The Fact Sheets provide an overview of European integration and of the European Parliament's contribution to that process. They cover six main themes: the EU's functioning; a citizens' Europe; the internal market; the economic and monetary union; sectoral policies; and external relations.



The Fact Sheets are available in 23 languages. The online version is updated regularly.

www.europarl.europa.eu/factsheets

Policy Departments

The policy departments provide high-level independent expertise, analysis and advice at the request of committees and other parliamentary bodies. Their expertise covers all areas of activity of Parliament. They deliver policy analysis in a wide variety of formats, feeding directly into the legislative work of committees or members' delegations. Policy departments also organise events, including workshops and expert panels, which enhance Parliament's analytical capacity and develop common approaches to current political issues.

www.europarl.europa.eu/supporting-analyses



Economic Governance Support Unit

This Unit provides information to members on the implementation of the economic governance instruments and banking supervision in the EU, particularly in the Euro Area. Their publications are also available in the Committee for Economic and Monetary Affairs' policy pages.

www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/en/econ/econ-policies.html

